

# ASKS STATE OF WAR BE DECLARED

## Wilson Delivers Momentous Address.

### ASKS ARMY OF 500,000

#### Also Urges Liberal Financial Credit For Allies.

#### DISLOYALTY TO BE SQUELCHED

Long Controversy With Germany Over Submarine Operations Reviewed at Length and Imperial Government Severely Affrained—President Makes It Clear That No Action Is Being Taken Against Other Central Powers.

Washington, April 3.—Appearing before a joint session of the house and senate last night, President Wilson asked congress to declare that a state of war exists between Germany and the United States because of Germany's illegal submarine warfare.

The president also requested that immediate steps be taken to put the country in a more thorough state of defense and that it be permitted to employ all its resources to bring the government of the German empire to terms and end the war.

The president said acquiescence by congress would involve "the utmost practical co-operation in counsel and action" with the government now at war with Germany, the raising of 500,000 men who, in his opinion, should be chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service and the granting of adequate credits to the government. The full text of the message follows:

#### THE MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Congress: "I have called congress into extra ordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made and made immediately, which it was neither right or constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making.

"On the 24 of February last I officially laid before you an extraordinary announcement of the imperial German government that on and after the 1st day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, or the western coasts of Europe, or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean. That had seemed to be the object of the German submarine warfare earlier in the war, but since April of last year the imperial German government had somewhat restrained the commanders of its undersea craft in conformity with its promise then given to us that passenger boats should not be sunk and that due warning would be given to all other vessels which its submarines might seek to destroy, when no resistance was offered or escape attempted, and care taken that their crews were given at least a fair chance to save their lives in their open boats. The precautions were meager and haphazard enough, as was proved in distressing instances after instance in the progress of the cruel and unmanly business, but a certain degree of restraint was observed.

"The new policy has swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom of the sea without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents.

#### Warfare Against Mankind.

"I was for a little while unable to believe that such things would in fact be done by any government that had hitherto subscribed to the humane practices of civilized nations. International law had its origin in the attempt to set up some law which would be respected and observed upon the seas, where no nation had right of dominion and where lay the free highways of the world. By painful effort, stage after stage has that law been built up, with meager enough results, indeed, after all was accomplished that could be accomplished, but always with a clear view at least of what the heart or conscience of man kind demanded. This minimum of right the German government has swept aside under the plea of retaliation and necessity and because it had no weapons which it could use at sea except those which it is impossible, as it is employing them, without throwing to the winds all scruples of hu-

#### WOODROW WILSON

Recommends Declaration of War Against Germany.



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manity or of respect for the understandings that were supposed to underlie the intercourse of the world.

"I am not now thinking of the loss of property involved, immense and serious as that is, but only of the wanton and wholesale destruction of the lives of noncombatants, men, women and children, engaged in pursuits which have always, even in the darkest periods of modern history, been deemed innocent and legitimate. Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent can not be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

#### Armed Neutrality Ineffective.

"When I addressed the congress on the 26th of February last I thought that it would suffice to assert our neutral rights with arms, our right to use the seas against unlawful interference, our right to keep our people safe against unlawful violence. But armed neutrality, it now appears, is impracticable. Because submarines are in effect outlaws when used as the German submarines have been used against merchant shipping, it is impossible to defend ships against their attacks as the law of nations has assumed that merchantmen would defend themselves against privateers or cruisers, visible craft giving chase upon the open sea. It is common prudence in such circumstances, grim necessity indeed, to endeavor to destroy them before they have shown their own intentions. They must be dealt with upon sight, if dealt with at all.

"The German government denies the right of neutrals to use arms at all within the areas of the sea which it has proscribed even in the defense of rights which no modern publicist has ever before questioned their right to defend. There is one choice we can not make, we are incapable of making. We will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our nation and our people to be ignored or violated. The wrongs against which we now array ourselves are not common wrongs; they cut to the very roots of human life.

#### Solemn Step Taken.

"With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my constitutional duty, I advise that the congress declare the recent course of the imperial German government to be nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it; and that it take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense, but also to exert all its power and employ all of its resources to bring the government of Germany to terms and end the war.

"What this will involve is clear. It will involve the utmost practical co-operation in counsel and action with the governments now at war with Germany, and as incident to that, the extension to those governments of the most liberal financial credits in order that our resources may so far as possible be added to theirs. It will involve the organization and mobilization of all the material resources of the country to supply the materials of war and serve the incidental needs of the nation in the most abundant and yet the most economical and efficient way possible. It will involve the immediate full equipment of the navy in all respects, but particularly in supplying it with the best means of dealing with the enemy's submarines. It will involve the immediate addition to the armed forces of the United States, already provided for by law in case of war at least 500,000 men, who should, in my opinion, be chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service, and also the authorization of subsequent additional increments of equal force as soon as they may be needed and can be handled in training. It will involve also, of course, the granting of adequate credits to the government sustained, I hope, so far as they

can equitably be sustained by the present generation, by well conceived taxation.

#### Would Help Allies.

"In carrying out the measures by which these things are to be accomplished we should keep constantly in mind the wisdom of interfering as little as possible in our own preparation and in the equipment of our own military forces with the duty—for it will be a very practical duty—of supplying the nations already at war with Germany with the materials which they can obtain only from us or by our assistance. They are in the field and we should help them in every way to be effective there.

"I shall take the liberty of suggesting, through the several executive departments of the government, for the consideration of your committees, measures for the accomplishment of several objects I have mentioned. I hope that it will be your pleasure to deal with them as having been framed after very careful thought by the branch of the government upon which the responsibility of conducting the war and safeguarding the nation will most directly fall.

"While we do these things, these deeply momentous things, let us be very clear, and make very clear to all the world what our motives and our objects are. My own thought has not been driven from its habitual and normal course by the unhappy events of the last two months, and I do not believe that though of the nation has been altered or clouded by them. I have exactly the same things in mind now that I had in mind when I addressed the senate on the twenty second of January last; the same that I had in mind when I addressed the congress on the third of February and on the 26th of February.

#### American Object.

"Our object now as then, is to vindicate the principle of peace and justice in the life of the world as against the selfish and autocratic powers and to set up amongst the really free and self-governed peoples of the world such a concert of purpose and of action as will henceforth ensure the observance of those principles.

"Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to the peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of their people. We have seen the last of neutrality in such circumstances.

"We have no quarrel with the German people. We have no feeling towards them, but one of sympathy and friendship. It was not upon their impulse that their governments acted in entering this war. It was not their previous knowledge or approval that was a war determined upon as it was used to be determined upon in the old, unhappy days when peoples were nowhere consulted by their rulers and wars were provoked and waged in the interest of dynasties or of little groups of ambitious men who were accustomed to use their fellow-men as pawns and tools. Self-governed nations do not fill their neighbor states with spies or set the course of intrigue to bring about some critical posture of affairs which will give them an opportunity to strike and make conquest. Such designs can be successfully worked out only under cover and where no one has the right to ask questions. Cunningly contrived plans of deception or aggression, carried, may be, from generation to generation, can be worked out and kept from the light only within the privacy of courts or behind the carefully guarded confidences of a narrow and privileged class. They are happily impossible where public opinion commands and insists upon full information concerning all the nation's affairs.

#### Attacks Autocracy.

"A steadfast concert for peace can never be maintained except by a partnership of democratic nations. No autocratic government could be trusted to keep faith within it or observe its covenants. It must be a league of honor, a partnership of opinion. Intrigue would eat its vitals away; the plottings of inner circles who could plan what they would and render account to no one would be a corruption seated at its very heart. Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honor steady to a common end and prefer the interests of mankind to any narrow interest of their own.

"Does not every American feel that assurance has been added to our hope for the future peace of the world by the wonderful and heartening things that have been happening within the last few weeks in Russia? Russia was known by those who knew it best to have been always democratic at heart, in all the vital habits of her thought, in all the intimate relationships of her people that spoke their natural instinct, their habitual attitude towards life. The autocracy that crowned the summit of her political structure, long as it had stood and terrible as was the reality of its power, was not in fact Russian in origin, character, or purpose, and it now has been shaken off and the great, generous Russian people have been added in all their naive majesty and might to the forces that are fighting for freedom in the world, for justice and for peace. Here is a fit partner for a league of honor.

"One of the things that has served to convince us that the Prussian autocracy was not and could not be our friend is that from the very outset of the present war it has filled our un-suspecting communities and even our offices of government with spies, and

set criminal intrigues everywhere afoot against our national unity of counsel, our peace within and without, our industries and our commerce.

#### Prussian Enmity Shown.

"Even in checking these things and trying to extirpate them we have sought to put the most generous interpretation possible upon them, because we know that their source lay, not in any hostile feeling or purpose of the German people towards us (who were no doubt as ignorant of them as we ourselves were), but only in the selfish designs of a government that did what it pleased and told its people nothing. But they have played their part in serving to convince us at last that the government entertains no real friendship for us, and means to act against our peace and security at its convenience. That it means to stir up enemies against us at our very doors the intercepted note to the German minister at Mexico City is eloquent evidence.

"We are accepting this challenge of hostile purpose because we know that in such a government following such methods, we can never have a friend, and that in the presence of its organized power, always lying in wait to accomplish we know not what purpose, there can be no assured security for the democratic governments of the world. We are now about to accept gage of battle with this natural foe to liberty and shall if necessary expend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and power. The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material for the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them.

#### Austria Not Menaced.

"I have said nothing of the governments allied with the imperial government of Germany, because they have not made war upon us or challenged us to defend our right and our honor. The Austro-Hungarian government has, indeed, avowed its unequalled endorsement and acceptance of the reckless and lawless submarine warfare adopted now without disguise by the imperial German government, and it has therefore not been possible for this government to receive Count Tarnowski, the ambassador recently accredited to this government by the imperial and royal government of Austria-Hungary, but that government has not actually engaged in warfare against citizens of the United States on the high seas, and I take the liberty, for the present at least, of postponing a discussion of our relations with the authorities at Vienna. We enter this war only where we are clearly forced into it because there are no other means of defending our rights.

"It will be all the easier for us to conduct ourselves as belligerents in a high spirit of right and fairness, because we act without animus, not in enmity, towards a people or with the desire to bring any injury or disadvantage upon them, but only in armed opposition to an irresponsible government, which has thrown aside all considerations of humanity and of right and is running amuck. We are, let me say again, the sincere friends of the German people, and shall desire nothing so much as the early re-establishment of intimate relations of mutual advantage between us, however hard it may be for them, for the time being, to believe that this is spoken from our hearts.

#### Our German Citizens.

"We shall, happily, still have an opportunity to prove that friendship in our daily attitude and actions towards the millions of men and women of German birth and native sympathy who live among us and share our life, and we shall be proud to prove it towards all who are in fact loyal to their neighbors and to the government in the hour of test. They are, most of them, as true and loyal Americans as if they had never known any other fealty or allegiance. They will be prompt to stand with us in rebuking and restraining the few who may be of a different mind and purpose. If there should be disloyalty, it will be dealt with with a firm hand of stern repression, but if it lifts its head at all, it will lift it only here and there and without countenance except from a lawless and malignant few.

"It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."

#### MAKING IT PLEASANT.

Dot (to visitor)—Mrs. Stopalday, mamma said she would be glad to see your back. I don't see anything different in it from usser people's. Mamma (hastily)—I said I should be glad to see her back again. You know Mrs. Stopalday has been away so long. Dot looks contemplative, stares very hard at Mrs. Stopalday and at length exclaims: "Has you dot a new face?" Mrs. S.—A new face! Why? Dot—Tos daddy said he didn't want to see your old one adain.

#### A Great Accomplishment.

"All glory now," say I To Nellie. "To him who first Invented jelly." —Detroit Free Press.

#### In the Same Circle.

"I once moved in the same circle with Mrs. De Style." "G'wan." "Fact. We got on the same merry-go-round." —Exchange.

#### Well Posted.



Housewife—Will you please tell me where I can see the candelabra? New Clerk—All canned goods are on the next floor.—Pittsburgh Press.

#### Sounded Ominous.

"He insists that he is not worthy of me." "I don't like the sound of that. Better look up his financial rating again, girl." —Kansas City Journal.

#### The Star.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star! Now I see you as you are—Minus powder, minus paint—What you were, why, now you ain't! —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

#### Defined.

"Pa, what are sour grapes?" "Well, my boy, when your mother doesn't win the prize at her bridge club it's always something that she didn't want anyhow." —Detroit Free Press.

#### His Hint.



Visitor—Has this hotel all modern improvements? Clerk—Yes—you can't beat it!—Boston Globe.

#### Unnecessary.

"I'm afraid this apartment won't do. There's no room for the maid to sleep in." "That's all right. If you hire a maid in the morning the chances are she'll quit before night anyhow." —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

#### The Poets.

When poets write the world is brutal. It works 'em up to concert pitch. I think they're happier when they tootle Of sadness, suicide and sich. —New York Sun.

#### His Mistake.

"Are those eggs fresh?" "Yes, miss. They wouldn't have been laid till tomorrow if I hadn't made a mistake and torn an extra leaf off the calendar." —Ideas.

#### To Be Exact.



Officer—Don't you know better than to start an empty gun at me? Startled Recruit—But it—it's not empty, sir; it's loaded. —Hutton Mitchell in Whisker Magazine.

#### JACK'S RED CROSS GIRL.

By JOSEPH T. RESCEL.

He, on the Texas border, called her his "Red Cross Girl," we, in the big government hospital, "Merry Sunshine." Indeed she was to us a ray of sunshine. Moving among us with her cheery "good morning," she arranged a pillow here and there, while beaming into upturned faces.

Nature had made her light. She was light of complexion, and beneath a spotless cap of white, in the bright morning sun, her light hair shone like newly beaten gold. She had laughing blue eyes that sparkled like rippling waters.

The big ward—our ward—was filled to its capacity. The sudden call of the militia to the Rio Grande had exacted its full quota of sick men. As each pain-racked figure was brought in, Merry Sunshine could not conceal her anxiety. It might be her Jack, dear old Jack, so noble, good and handsome, who had been one of the first to leave for the border. Wishing to be near him and also to serve her country, she had followed her sweetheart the day after his departure, but many miles still separated them.

One bright August morning they carried into the ward a khaki-clad, delirious figure, who waved an imaginary saber with his unbanded arm, shouting wildly, "Up and at them, Jack; up and at them. Good boy, Jack; see them run. They're breaking, they're breaking. We'll chase 'em into the gulf."

With eager, trembling hands she examined the regimental number on the sick man's uniform. It was the same regiment as her Jack's. Was it possible this tossing, fever-stricken form knew her sweetheart?

Far into the night she sat by the wounded man's side.

In the cool quiet of the early morning a few days later, Merry Sunshine's attention was rewarded by a gentle sigh from the new patient. He was freed from his delirium and his eyes slowly grew clearer. A wan smile parted his lips as she bent over him. "Jack's sweetheart, the Red Cross girl," he whispered joyfully. "I know you from the picture in his watch case."

With a cry of delight she heard what followed.

"Yes, Jack was by my side when we charged across a stretch of cactus-covered plain during some drill maneuvers. I remember my horse pitching forward, my head striking the ground and nothing else until this moment."

The voice gradually weakened. Almost inaudibly he mumbled, "I'm tired now, very tired. Letter—inside—pocket—blouse—which I was to mail—because Jack—stationed long way from post office." His eyes closed and he lapsed into peaceful slumber.

"A letter from Jack! Oh, how good!" A bell rang the call to duty. The letter must wait. With a long, sweet kiss she placed it over her heart in the folds of her immaculate uniform.

Months passed and the strained situation at the border had calmly subsided. A long troop train pulled into the station of a northern city amid shrieking whistles and the hoarse shouts of the multitude upon the platform.

Accompanied by the grinding of brakes and release of air, the train came to a full stop.

At the edge of the crowd a fair-faced woman energetically waved her country's flag with a small, ungloved hand.

Shifting her intent gaze continually over each vestibule as man after man descended the expression in her eyes showed eager expectancy while she scanned each healthy, sun-browned face.

Why did he not appear? Could it be possible he had not come? It was his regiment. Had anything happened?

It seemed to her tension-wrought mind that they had all disembarked. The flag of her country was firmly clasped in her hand, as with her head erect she tried to force her way through the crowd.

A tall, well-built militiaman, who noted the look of anxiety on her face, politely lifted his hat and asked if he could be of service. She thanked him and explained. In a quiet, even tone he said, "Passageway, please." The crowd respectfully fell aside and he conducted her to the cars.

Merry Sunshine arrived with him at an open vestibule, just as three figures started to descend. A big man in the center, supported by his two companions, saw her coming. He attempted to rush forward, but his uncertain steps were checked by his comrades, who sang out, "Steady, Jack, steady!"

A deep flush of color shot to his cheeks. His eyes, clear and bright, watched the figure that came rapidly toward him and eagerly sprang up the steps. Strength returned suddenly as her arms encircled his neck and she placed upon his lips a long, sweet kiss. Her anxious voice questioned him. "Jack, what is it? Tell me! You are ill? You are injured?"

"It is nothing, little sweetheart," he said. "I had the fever. Feel a trifle shaky, that's all." His arms quickly went around her, and there, amid that vast throng, we lost our "Merry Sunshine," and Jack, good old Jack, regained his "Red Cross girl." (Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)